



CALPEEK

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CAMPAIGN 2002: CONNELL VS. DAVIS NEXT YEAR?? GOP SURE HOPES SO, AS CONTROLLER HITS DAVIS.

Editor's note: During the Saturday (3/31) morning session at the Calif. Demo Party convention in Anaheim, political reporters were 99.9% sure Demo CA Controller Kathleen Connell would use her 10 minutes in the spotlight to bash Gov. Gray Davis(D) over his energy policy. Connell lived up to expectations. Here's our analysis & commentary...

...If there's one thing Calif. political reporters love, it's a *food fight* between rival elected officials from the same political party. Almost without exception, it's been Connell throwing the first tomato, with Davis counter-punching. And this bitterness between Davis and Connell has been a food fight in progress since the day Connell took over as controller from Davis back in 1995. Remember, these two were the only Demos (along with U.S. Sen. Dianne Feinstein) who survived the big GOP sweep of 1994...

...And while Davis was putting the blame for the energy crisis on former Gov. Pete Wilson, Connell said that finger-pointing wouldn't solve the problem. "There will be no excuses for Democrats in this state, because we dominate state government." She continued, "I spent the past eight years making sure the state had a surplus and now I'm seeing it eaten away every day by energy costs. Whatever solution (Davis) provides, it must come fast and be shared openly." Words pretty close Connell's have been said before, but not by a statewide elected Democrat...

...So immediately after her speech to the 2,000 CDP delegates, political reporters covering the convention began to speculate among themselves as to whether Connell's blast at Davis was just the beginning of a possible primary battle against the incumbent. The verdict: unclear, but certainly possible. Connell is *termed out* of her controller's job and odds of her getting into the June 5th L.A. Mayor's runoff is remote because her campaign just hasn't clicked, despite the fact that it's well-funded with lots of tv ads. Her current tv ad about the energy crisis takes a shot at Gov. Davis...

...Davis' counter-punch. After his own speech to delegates,

Davis held a short news conference and said, "If she's not happy with my handling of the energy crisis she can run for governor next time." That's throwing down the gauntlet. Davis' chief political advisor, Garry South, wasn't as restrained: "This is why Kathleen Connell doesn't have a friend in all L.A. She's been picking on the governor since day one. It's all air – not only hot air, but a foul wind." South failed to add that Connell doesn't have many friends in Sacto either...

...What would be the impact of a Connell vs. Davis primary battle? Davis wins, but it would be a very contentious primary and Davis couldn't take Connell's challenge lightly. He'd have to make a case for himself, which he is totally capable of doing. But to have Connell there, bashing him on a daily basis – and probably with several week's worth of tv (negative tv too) that could hurt. And that would bring big smiles to Calif. Republicans, who already smell blood in the water. Stay tuned...

L.A. CITY ELECTION PREVIEW

Editor's note: **Calpeek** will update all 3 citywide primary contests. We've got tons of polling on the L.A. Mayor's race, plus survey info on the other two citywide contests. The election is Tuesday, April 10th. Here's our update & analysis...

...Most **Calpeek** sources are predicting a moderate-sized voter turnout – somewhere between 33-36%. In the 1993 citywide primary (the mayor's job was OPEN and there was a large field of well-known and well-funded candidates) the turnout was 35%. Four years later when L.A. Mayor Richard Riordan ran for reelection against State Sen. Tom Hayden, the turnout was 32%. However, that 1997 election was important because for the first time the Latino voter turnout was *larger* than the African-American turnout...

The L.A. Mayor's Race

...A month ago most insiders were saying that the June 5th runoff to replace Mayor Riordan would feature L.A. City

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Atty. Jim Hahn and someone else. That's the not the case any longer, as GOP businessman Steve Soboroff and former Assembly Speaker Antonio Villaraigosa are now bunched in the top tier with Hahn. And most sources now say that L.A. Councilman Joel Wachs, CA Controller Kathleen Connell and U.S. Rep. Xavier Becerra are out of the running. Wachs probably ends up 4th – another disappointing showing for a guy who started out in the top tier with Hahn...

...Here are the 3 major scenarios now making the rounds:
 1) Hahn vs. Villaraigosa – this is the scenario where Wachs pulls votes away from Soboroff, killing him off. 2) Soboroff vs. Hahn – this is the scenario where Becerra and his 1,700 ground troops pull just enough votes away from Villaraigosa. And 3) Villaraigosa vs. Soboroff – this is the scenario where the *independent expenditures* from Calif. Demo Party and Calif. Republican Party help Villaraigosa and Soboroff into the runoff – killing off Hahn...

...**The Polling Data.** We have 4 recent surveys. They include: Villaraigosa (The Mellman Group, Mar. 26-27, 600 likely); Soboroff (Fairbank Maslin Maullin, Mar. 31-Apr. 2, 1,000 likely voters); L.A. Times (Mar. 28-Apr. 1, 769 likely voters); and KABC-TV Eyewitness News(*Survey USA*, data aired 4/2)...

	<u>KABC</u>	<u>LAT</u>	<u>Soboroff</u>	<u>Villaraigosa</u>
Hahn	23%	24%	23%	20%
Villaraigosa	25%	20%	22%	23%
Soboroff	19%	18%	21%	14%
Wachs	13%	11%	12%	11%
Connell	11%	6%	7%	8%
Becerra	4%	6%	8%	3%
Undecided	5%	15%	7%	21%

...Both Soboroff and Villaraigosa have momentum, whereas Hahn seems flat. Hahn's ace: there will be a very heavy Demo/black turnout in the 32nd CD special election to replace the late Julian Dixon. If Soboroff makes the June 5th runoff, he'll owe GOP consultant Arnie Steinberg big time. Steinberg has been handling an IE for CRP Chair Shawn Steel to drive up L.A. City GOP awareness of Soboroff. FYI: U.S. Sen. John McCain just endorsed Soboroff...

...At this point there's been very little in the way of negative campaigning, but that could change. There was an automated phone message being delivered to Demo voters bashing Villaraigosa's voting record (the female caller claimed to be L.A. Co. Sup. Gloria Molina, but it wasn't). HOWEVER, our sources don't think any of the top tier candidates will air negative tv ads against their rivals, for fear of a voter backlash. Nevertheless, our sources say Wachs has already gone after Soboroff in the mail and a cable tv hit is on the way...

L.A. City Attorney & Controller

...In the battle for L.A. City Attorney, the new L.A. Times poll shows L.A. Councilman Mike Feuer holding onto the lead with 20%, followed by L.A. Dep. Mayor Rocky Delgadillo with 15%, L.A. Co. Dep. DA Lea Purwin D'Agostino at 12%, L.A. Dep. DA Frank Tavelman at 3% and a huge 50% undecided. Delgadillo's tv ad featuring former L.A. Lakers star Magic Johnson is terrific. And Delgadillo just picked up the endorsement of L.A. Co. Sheriff Lee Baca. Our sources still see Feuer as making the June 5th runoff. Second spot is up in the air, but Delgadillo does have momentum...

...In the primary for L.A. City Controller, L.A. Councilwoman Laura Chick has a commanding lead over her nearest rival, businesswoman Laurette Healey. Chick has 37% in the L.A. Times poll, with Healey and Mervin Evans tied at 11%, with 41% undecided. There is a fair chance, according to our sources, that Chick will win this primary without a runoff. Chick is up on tv now. Stay tuned...

CAMPAIGN 2001: UPDATE ON THE 32ND CD SPECIAL.
 Editor's note: Here's a final update on the April 10th special primary to replace the late Julian Dixon(D-L.A.). Dixon died unexpectedly Dec. 6th. 19 candidates have filed for his U.S. House seat, but the special primary is really a 3-person battle between former State Sen. Dianne Watson, L.A. Councilman Nate Holden and current State Sen. Kevin Murray(Culver City) – all Demos. Since the 32nd CD has a 70% + Demo Party registration, GOPers will have a tough time winning this seat. The runoff will be June 5th. Here's our analysis...

...Most insiders agree this is Watson's race to win or lose. As noted in last week's Calpeek, Watson was well ahead of both Murray and Holden in a 2-day tracking poll by Fairbank, Maslin Maullin. A newer 3-day track (Mar. 31 to April 2, 450 likely voters) shows almost the same results as reported last week:

Dianne Watson(D)	40%
Kevin Murray(D)	14%
Nate Holden(D)	11%
Leo Terrell(D)	3%
Philip Lowe(D)	3%
Mike Schaefer(R)	3%
Noel Irwin-Hentschel(R)	2%
Jules Bagneris(D)	2%
Undecided	21%
Others	1%

...FYI: Until recently, the only hits being thrown were at

Murray – and mostly by attorney and radio talk show host Leo Terrell(D). Terrell is bashing Murray's personal behavior. But now Watson's team has hit Murray in the mail for his links to the gun lobby. Part of the copy reads, "Kevin Murray is one of the Gun Lobby's best friends in Sacramento. Here is his record." And then it lists 8 different bills which tie him to the gun lobby (according to the mailer, Murray skipped votes on 4 critical anti-gun bills). Sources say Watson will also hit Murray for missing key votes on HMO reform. Stay tuned...

CA DEMO PARTY PUTS ON A BRAVE FACE FOR 2002.

Editor's note: A Calpeek reader recently asked us about the key difference between the CA GOP convention and the just concluded CA Demo gathering in Anaheim. The answer: unlike the CA Republican Party, there isn't much if any *intra-party warfare* between the liberals and centrists (DLCers) in the CDP. Here's our update & analysis...

...With Calif. Demos holding 9 of 10 statewide offices, plus 50 of 80 assembly seats and 26 of 40 State senate seats, as well as 32 of 52 U.S. House seats, the 2,000 delegates attending the March 30-April gathering should have been in a much happier mood. But the continuing energy crisis had its impact in Anaheim too. Although there was lots of partying, the mood overall was subdued – except for Demo cheerleader Bob Mulholland. Those fortune cookies in the press room were classic Mulholland: inside 4 different *messages*: 1) Bill Jones – Quackenbush's closest friend; 2) Democrats fighting for Calif.; 3) Energy Fiasco – DNA proves Wilson @ crime scene; and 4) Bush Rejects Price Caps...

...In terms of CDP business, here's the list of new CDP officers: Art Torres, reelected chair; Ms. Alex Gallardo-Rooker 1st vice chair; Alicia Wong 2nd vice chair; Reginald Byron Jones-Sawyer Sr. secretary; and Antonio Salazar-Hobson controller...

...**Looking at 2002.** The primary is less than a year away and Demos got a first look at some of those who are testing the waters. In the battle for CA Secretary of State, as noted in Calpeek, former Insurance Comm. John Garamendi was making the rounds, as was Michela Alioto and former SOS March Fong Eu (with '94 Demo SOS nominee Tony Miller close at hand). Sources say Assemblyman Tony Cardenas from L.A. is also running here, as is Assembly Majority Leader Kevin Shelley of S.F....

...In the battle for Controller, dot.com millionaire Steve Westly (a former CDP officer) made an impressive showing. Very fancy brochure, but also a very solid list of endorsements, including Assembly Speaker Bob Hertzberg,

5 Demo U.S. House members, a dozen members of the Calif. Legislature, plus lots of business and community leaders. BOE member Johan Klehs needs to do lots of work to play catch up... CA Insurance Comm. Harry Low was at the convention, doing the meet & greet number. Waiting in the wings if Low doesn't run: former Assemblyman Tom Umberg of Orange Co. and current Assemblyman Tom Calderon... Assemblywoman Carole Migden of S.F. was making the rounds too, talking up her BOE candidacy...

CAMPAIGN 2001: BOGH WINS 65TH AD SPECIAL RACE.

Editor's note: GOP businessman and former SCE executive Russ Bogh won a special election April 3rd over retired naval officer Ray R. Quinto(D) in the Inland Empire's 65th AD, which is split between San Bernardino & Riverside counties. Here's our brief update...

...There were no other candidates in this special to replace former Beaumont Mayor Jan Leja, a GOPer who resigned the 65th AD office shortly after being elected last November. Leja resigned as part of a plea bargain because she admitted violating campaign reporting laws...

...Bogh won with 17,476 votes or 52.38% vs. 15,889 or 47.62% for Quinto. In other words, it was a lot closer than predicted by many insiders. Still, it was a good win for GOP consultant Steve Presson, who ran Bogh's campaign. With Bogh's election, the GOP Assembly Caucus is now back to full strength: 30 members. Demos are at 49, with a vacancy in L.A. Co.'s 49th AD (the Gloria Romero seat)...

...Quinto, who Demos regard as a first rate candidate, ran 10-points better than Demo registration. And while Quinto was aided by the CA Demo Party, the Assembly Demo Caucus decided to sit this one out. Sources say that demographics are beginning to shift in favor of the Demos and it will be just a matter of time until the 65th AD goes Demo. If one were looking for any sign of voter dissatisfaction, especially over the ongoing energy crisis, this was not a good contest to make that kind of judgment. Voter turnout in Riverside Co. was 17.07% and it was 18.8% in San Berdu Co. Stay tuned...

CALPEEK'S CALENDAR OF POLITICAL EVENTS

Apr. 10	L.A. city primary & 32 nd CD special primary election.
Apr. 17	Compton city election.
Apr. 26	Pat Brown Inst.'s 20 th Annual Awards Dinner, Regal Biltmore Hotel, L.A.
May 15	49 th AD special primary.
June 5	L.A. city runoff election; 32 nd CD special election runoff.
June 28-30	NALEO's 18 th Annual Conference, San Jose.
July 10	49 th AD special election runoff.

CALPEEK'S INFOBAHN: POLITICAL SHORT TAKES.

Editor's note: Here are a few items, political & otherwise, worth noting...

■ **Keep Your Eyes on SBIX** – It's a bill that will impose excess profit taxes on energy/power suppliers doing business in Calif. FYI: sources say Montana is moving quickly to pass similar legislation. And that Western state has a GOP governor and legislature. SBIX is being moved at the express wishes of Gov. Gray Davis(D). Authors of this bill are Demos Nell Soto and Jack Scott...

■ **Ebonics & Bush** – S.F. Mayor Willie Brown's 2 liner about Pres. George W. Bush's latest killing of the English language ("don't misunderestimate me") brought the house down at the CDP's recent convention. Brown first noted Bush is now a *poster child for ebonics*. "There ain't no brother in Oakland or anywhere else that would run the phrase or mix up the words this cat does. It raises serious questions about whether he's really white."...

■ **Filing Closes for 49th AD Special** – Filing closed on April 2nd for candidates running in the vacant assembly seat previously held by now State Sen. Gloria Romero(R). Only 4 candidates filed: Monterey Park Councilwoman Judy Chu (D); Alhambra Councilman Dan Arguello(D); Alhambra School Bd. member Bob Miranda(D); and Mr. Kim Goldsworthy(Libertarian). No GOPer. The primary is May 15th...

■ **Campaign Finance Reform** – The vote in the U.S. Senate for the McCain/Feingold campaign finance reform bill was **59 - 41**. This bill bans soft money donations, but the bill also ups the current \$1,000 individual contribution to \$2,000 in federal elections. The bill now moves to the U.S. House, where the key sponsors are Christopher Shays (R-CT) and Martin Meehan(D-MA). If the GOP U.S. House leadership tries to kill this bill, they will be making a huge mistake...

CALPEEK's NEW JOBS AND PERSONNEL NOTICES.

Editor's note: Here are some items to mark down in your notebook...

● Gov. Davis has named Mona Pasquil as his political director. She'll be based in L.A. Pasquil was Western political director for the Office of Public Affairs at the Clinton White House...

● Gov. Davis has named Lynn Bedford as the new 5th District Supervisor for San Joaquin Co. He will serve out the term of Robert J. Cabral, who died Oct. 4, 2000...

● For her work on breaking the story about former Insurance Comm. Chuck Quackenbush, L.A. Times writer Virginia Ellis has won the 2000 *George Polk Award* for political reporting...

● Santa Clara-based Top Notch Data has moved to 312 Brokaw Road, Ste. D, Santa Clara, CA 95050. (408)653-1990...

● Demo fundraising consultant Charley Dobbs has moved her Charlotte Dobbs & Co. to 1950 Sawtelle Blvd., Ste. 295, L.A. 90025. New ☎ (310)313-2047...

● Lt. Gov. Cruz Bustamante(D) has named Burt McChesney as his new chief of staff...

● The L.A. office of Goddard-Claussen/Porter Novelli has named Gerald Gunster as a VP. Gunster comes to GC/PN from Winner/Wagner & Mandabach in L.A...

● Gov. Davis has appointed Peter Mackler as So. Calif. Policy Liaison for the De[pt. of Health Services. Mackler had been working in L.A. for Senate PPT John Burton...

● Sheila Scally is the new mgr. of Nielsen Merksamer's political reporting unit. She replaces Cate Lynch, who retired. Kerry Murphy, asst. mgr. of the reporting unit, will co-manage with Scally...

● Stoorza Communications, Inc., has named Patrick O'Reilly as the pa/pr firm's new president. He replaces Dave DePinto, who resigned. O'Reilly was the gm of the firm's Inland Empire office...

● The Faculty Assn. of CA Community Colleges has hired David Hawkins as their new legislative advocate...

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